

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-77. (Canceled)

78. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method, comprising:
- gathering, by ~~an agent~~ a processor of a computer, a plurality of usage data from a plurality of users consuming a plurality of computer resources in an on demand service environment, the on demand service environment providing a plurality of computer services available through a web service interface, wherein the ~~[[agent]]~~ processor is connected to the plurality of users~~[[.]]~~ and the web services interface, ~~and the processing engine~~ by a network, and wherein each of the plurality of usage data measures a consumption of a computer ~~service~~ resource in one of the plurality of computer services;
 - sending, by the ~~[[agent]]~~ processor, the plurality of usage data to a database through the web services interface;
 - processing, by the ~~processing engine~~ processor, the plurality of usage data into a plurality of records, each of the plurality of records having a required information section and an attributes section;
 - saving, by the ~~processing engine~~ processor, the plurality of records into a record table, an attribute table, and a unit of work table, wherein the record table is linked to the attribute table, and the record table is linked to the unit of work table;
 - responsive to a flag in a required field of a record, changing, ~~by the processing engine~~, a status of ~~a particular~~ the unit of work to a closed status in the unit of work table, and responsive to changing the status of the ~~particular~~ unit of work to the closed status in the unit of work table, identifying, ~~by the processing engine~~, a plurality of associated records, wherein an associated record is a record associated with the unit of work;

aggregating, normalizing, and algebraically composing, by the ~~processing engine~~ processor, the plurality of associated records to produce a metric ~~that summarizes~~ summarizing a consumption of the computer resource for the ~~particular~~ unit of work; and

storing, by the ~~processing engine~~ processor, the metric with the records in a database, wherein the metric and the records are configured to be stored and retrieved using ~~[[the]]~~ a ~~[[same]]~~ schema, and wherein the metric is configured to be used in an accounting, an auditing, a billing, or an optimization process.

79. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

~~an agent~~ a processor connected to a memory, a plurality of users and to ~~[[,]]~~ a web services interface, ~~and a processing engine~~ by a network~~[[,]]~~;

a plurality of instructions stored in the memory, the plurality of instructions configured to perform, by the processor, actions comprising:

~~wherein the agent gathers~~ gathering a plurality of usage data from the plurality of users, the plurality of users consuming a plurality of computer resources in an on demand service environment, the on demand service environment providing a plurality of computer services available through the web service interface, wherein each of the plurality of usage data measures a consumption of a computer ~~service~~ resource in one of the plurality of computer services;

~~wherein the agent sends~~ sending the usage data to a database through the web services interface;

~~wherein the processing engine processes~~ processing the usage data into a record having a required information section and an attributes section;

~~wherein the processing engine saves~~ saving the record into a record table, an attribute table, and a unit of work table, wherein the record table is linked to the attribute table, and the record table is linked to the unit of work table;

~~wherein, responsive to a flag in a required field of a record, the processing engine changes~~ changing a status of the ~~particular~~ unit of work to a closed status in the unit of work table, and responsive to the status of the ~~particular~~ unit of work changing to the closed status in the unit of work table, ~~the processing engine identifies~~ identifying a plurality of associated records, wherein an associated record is a record associated with the unit of work;

wherein the ~~processing engine aggregates, normalizes, and algebraically composes~~
~~aggregating, normalizing, and algebraically composing~~ the plurality of associated records
to produce a metric ~~that summarizes~~ ~~summarizing~~ a consumption of the computer resource for
the ~~particular~~ unit of work; and

wherein the ~~processing engine processor~~ stores the metric with the records in the
database, wherein the metric and the records are configured to be stored and retrieved using the
~~same a~~ schema, and wherein the metric is configured to be used in an accounting, an auditing, a
billing, or an optimization process.

80. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer readable medium;

a [[first]] plurality of instructions stored in the computer readable medium, the plurality
of instructions configured to cause ~~an agent a processor~~ connected to a plurality of users[[,]] ~~and~~
~~to~~ a web services interface, ~~and a processing engine~~ by a network to:

gather a plurality of usage data from the plurality of users, the plurality of users
consuming a plurality of resources in an on demand service environment, the on demand service
environment providing a plurality of services available through the web service interface,
wherein each of the plurality of usage data measures a consumption of a computer ~~service~~
resource in one of the plurality of computer services; and

send the usage data to a database through the web services interface;

~~a second plurality of instructions configured to cause the processing engine to:~~

process the usage data into a record having a required information section and an
attributes section, [[to]] save the record into a record table, an attribute table, and a unit of work
table, wherein the record table is linked to the attribute table, and the record table is linked to the
unit of work table, and responsive to a flag in a required field of a record[[;]], change a status of
the ~~particular~~ unit of work to a closed status in the unit of work table, and responsive to the
~~particular~~ unit of work's status changing to the closed status in the unit of work table[[;]],
identify a plurality of associated records, wherein an associated record is a record associated with
the unit of work;

aggregate, normalize, and algebraically compose the plurality of associated records to produce a metric that summarizes ~~summarizing~~ a consumption of the computer resource for the ~~particular~~ unit of work; and

store the metric with the records in the database, wherein the metric and the records are configured to be stored and retrieved using the same schema, and wherein the metric is configured to be used in an accounting, an auditing, a billing, or an optimization process.